

C.A Bayly, 'Liberalism at Large: South Asia and Britain c.1800-1947'

Introduction to Lecture Series

The following four essays are texts of the 2007 Wiles Lectures I gave at Queens University Belfast between 15 and 18 May. It was a great honour to have been invited to give these lectures. I am deeply grateful to the Wiles Trustees, the Vice-Chancellor and members of staff of Queens University and especially to Professors David Hayton and Keith Jeffery, who were exemplary hosts. I am also grateful to the friends and colleagues who accompanied me and plied me with such helpful questions and critiques: Sunil Amrith, Michael Dodson, Richard Drayton, Shruti Kapila, Derek Peterson and Gareth Stedman Jones. Some of the material and arguments here were first elaborated in the series of Page Barbour Lectures that I gave at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville in the summer of 2000. I am also very grateful to the Page Barbour Trustees and the members of the Department of History at UVA, Charlottesville for helping me to develop the lectures.

Indian intellectual history is fast re-establishing itself as a major field of interest in western countries and in India itself. It remains autonomous of, but complementary to the social, political, 'subaltern' and cultural history that has held sway in the academic world since the 1960s. In the circumstances, it seemed appropriate to release these lectures to the interested readership immediately, rather than wait several more years before publishing a more substantial work. Related work includes two chapters which will be published in 2008: Bayly, 'Liberalism at large. Mazzini and nineteenth Indian thought' in Eugenio Biagini and C A Bayly (eds.), *Giuseppe Mazzini and the globalisation of democratic nationalism* (Oxford, for British Academy, forthcoming) and 'Empires and liberalism and 'Historicism and history in nineteenth century India' in Peter Bang and C A Bayly (eds.), *Empires compared* (forthcoming).

Comments, suggestions and criticisms in any form are welcome, but I would be grateful if scholars would fully cite the material in their own work and seek permission from me if they intend to reproduce more substantial extracts.

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